

FOREST CITY.

A Chapter of Interest About One of Holt County's Prosperous Little Towns.

HER PAST HISTORY.

A Spicy Sketh of City From Its Founding to the Present Date.

A special representative of the press in reviewing the material advantages of Forest City makes the following complimentary statements.

Forest City is located on the K. C., St. Joe & C. B. railroad three miles west of Oregon, county seat of Holt County, surrounded by a vast scope of fertile country "as a crow flies over." Forest City is therefore the marketing and shipping place for great quantities of the products of the soil indigenous to a temperate climate, which are produced in great profusion, with thousands of head of all kind of live stock, poultry, etc.

On this account a prosperous town of some 700 population has sprung up, with splendid schools, churches, and other public features, with numerous business firms to supply demands in the lines.

The town is likewise improving. A new opera house to cost about \$5,000 when completed, is building. The town is supplied with waterworks and electric lights supplied by the city of Oregon. The town has a fine cannery factory, the product of which finds ready sale among the people. Richardson & Hitt operate an excellent mill, giving employment to eight or more hands, the product of which is taken by manufacturers in the lines of mattress making and for packing purposes. Richardson & Hitt were formerly merchants of the town. Mr. Hitt was in the banking business fourteen years.

The Commercial hotel has been conducted here by H. Connelly for the past five months. The rates are \$1 a day and such has been the excellence of the accommodations afforded by Mr. Connelly that the house has become a public favorite and is prospering under his management. Most reasonable rates are given to boarders by the day or week and it is to be hoped the success of Mr. Connelly will be continuous.

Hot and cold luncheons, summer drinks, ice cream, confectionery, cigars and tobacco are sold by S. Secrist, whose place has won a most favorable consideration by the public in a little more than one year, since Mr. Secrist has been the owner.

The Atlantic hotel is headquarters for commercial men, for the accommodations are equal in all respects to the best of 2-dollar-a-day houses in this part of the west. The Atlantic is at present under the efficient management of Hamilton Boyd, who knows how to cater to public wants.

R. W. Parks has the only exclusive grocery and provision house in Forest City, and it is a real credit to the mercantile interests of the place. The Diamond brand of coffee is a specialty fine among a fine display of staple and fancy goods of best varieties and most desirable quality. A lunch counter is provided for customers where also summer drinks are served. Mr. Parks is a young man, full of energy and a thorough knowledge of how to please the public, which knowledge he is using to advantage in building up a flattering trade since he located here last October. A nice stock of glass and gewgaws are among the attractions.

There are extensive dealers in dry goods, groceries, clothing, shoes, shelf hardware, tinware and notions. This general stock is one of the great attractions of Forest City. It is very large in all departments and fills every reasonable demand for supplies—ladies' and gents' furnishing goods and household provisions. Sewing machines are sold here. The Meers. There have been known to the mercantile interests of this town for nine years, the present partnership having been formed two years ago last January. There is one of the most important features of the country's commercial industries, and the business opportunities are appreciated by a steady patronage.

J. H. Lamb has a stock of dry goods, groceries, clothing, hats, ladies' and gents' furnishing goods and household provisions. Sewing machines are sold here. The Meers. There have been known to the mercantile interests of this town for nine years, the present partnership having been formed two years ago last January. There is one of the most important features of the country's commercial industries, and the business opportunities are appreciated by a steady patronage.

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A. J. Cotton conducts the city meat market, furnishing finest fresh and cured meats for the public. He has been in the business two years and studies to please.

Richardson & Robinson have a most complete stock of dry goods, groceries, clothing ladies' and gents' furnishing goods and an extra nice line of shoes—one of the largest in the county. That people find a nice variety of supplies to select from in this stock and prices that are right, is evidenced by the big patronage the house always enjoys.

The Bank of Forest City was established in 1873, as a private concern, incorporated in 1878 for 20 years. Officers are John France, senior, president; Jno. L. Chuning, vice president and E. M. Austin, cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000, and no town in the state of this size with territory practically so limited, is so well supplied with banking advantages and capital as Forest City.

Just this time, THE SENTINEL proprietors feel that now would be a good time for them to favor the people of our sister city, with a brief, spicy "historical" about their city, and hence we take this opportunity as a complement to our sister city of Forest City.

HER PAST AND PRESENT. Forest City was laid out by a company composed of Tootle, Fairleigh, of St. Joseph; Cook & Patterson and Nave & Turner, merchants of Forest City at that time. These gentlemen are now among St. Joseph's most prominent business men. The tract of land purchased comprised 520 acres, and was owned by Joel Baldwin. The price paid for this town site was \$10,000.

The first store building was put up by Tootle, Fairleigh & Co., and was built in the summer of 1857.

Nave, Turner & Co., soon followed by erecting the building that was so long occupied by J. M. Ford & Co., and which was destroyed by fire February 5, 1859.

The first brick store building was erected by Zook & Baldwin early in 1858, and was used as a drug store. It is still used for that purpose, and is occupied by John France, who has occupied this building for the past thirty years.

Daniel Zook, lately deceased, was the first postmaster who began his duties in 1858. The following is the roster of the postmasters:

Daniel Zook..... 1858
Alvin R. Cookin..... 1860
George R. Robinson..... 1861
H. K. Robinson..... 1862
Mary M. Canon..... 1863
Wm. S. Canon..... 1864
George Baldwin..... 1865
Jno. France..... 1866
H. L. Eyerson..... 1867

John M. Moody was the first blacksmith of the town. He was a native of Independence, Mo., and located there in the summer of 1857.

G. W. Glasgow was the first to open up a hostelry. His "livery" was a two-story frame in the north part of the town, and was built by the town company. L. B. Green succeeded Glasgow, and he bought the property.

The great staple in those days was hemp, and as many as a dozen steamers have been seen loading at one time along the Forest City wharf.

The local business of Forest City in those days, it has been said reached \$300,000 annually.

The first saloon was opened up by James Simson in 1858.

Up to the summer of 1868, Forest City was an important landing on the Missouri river; the river changed its channel that summer and left Forest City "high and dry."

The steamer Carrie B. Kuntz was the last steamer to "tie up" there, discharging her cargo at the old brick warehouse, which she "tied up" to the rails of the K. C. & St. Joe. C. B. railroad, and W. J. Zook made their last shipment by water—3,000 sacks of corn.

Dr. J. M. Wilson was the first physician to locate in Forest City.

Equire Weber and Capt. W. S. Canon located there in 1857, and the following year J. M. Ford, William Burgess, G. W. Hitt, Barney Williams, became citizens. W. S. Canon is now a citizen of Mound City, J. M. Ford is in St. Joseph, and William Burgess died in June, 1893. The others are still honored and respected citizens of our sister city.

The original and heaviest merchants of the town were: Turner, Frazer & Co., Tootle, Fairleigh & Co., Frazer & Brittain, and W. J. Zook.

The first sale of town lots occurred May 15, 1857, and the town began to fill up quite rapidly with a thrifty class of people. The town was incorporated by a special act of the legislature, passed March 12, 1861, and under this act Geo. Weber was chosen as the city's first mayor. It became a city of the fourth class March 30, 1888. The assessable valuations of the city have been:

1868.....\$40,322
1873.....52,430
1878.....40,100
1883.....47,200
1888.....49,780
1893.....56,810
1898.....54,370
1903.....55,030
1908.....57,320
1913.....52,910
1918.....61,430
1923.....60,170

At the August term of our county court, west Lewis, (Forest City) and territory, was made a voting precinct, and at the August term, 1894, the township of Forest was created.

The original town plat was filed May 16, 1857; the second plat was filed June 2, 1858; the third plat was filed September 30, 1868. Baldwin's addition to the

town was filed August 3, 1860.

The following is the roster of Forest City's mayors:

George Weber..... 1868
Hiram Patterson..... 1869
J. D. Tuit..... 1870
W. A. Joy..... 1871
J. D. Tuit..... 1872
Wm. Deane..... 1873
Henry Thomas..... 1874
Jno. France..... 1875
S. M. Glass..... 1876
T. J. Wilkinson..... 1877
S. M. Glass..... 1878
T. J. Wilkinson..... 1879
J. B. Lamb..... 1880
T. J. Wilkinson..... 1881
Jno. Winkler..... 1882
T. J. Wilkinson..... 1883
E. M. Austin..... 1884
J. B. Lamb..... 1885
E. M. Austin..... 1886
Hiram Patterson, J. D. Tuit, Wm. Doan, and T. J. Wilkinson are dead.

A. Joy is a resident of Peru, Nebraska. Henry Thomas is in the banking business at Mound City, and John Winkler is a citizen of Marshall, Mo.

In 1880 the population of Forest City was 421; in 1890, 428, and the present 1890 census will undoubtedly show the population to be about 525.

The vote cast at this precinct since 1880 was:

1880.....360
1884.....337
1888.....357
1892.....428
1896.....373
1900.....337

The pumping station and electric light power house of the Oregon water-works and electric light systems was built in August 1898.

The road from Forest City to Oregon, which is the most extensively traveled country road in the county, was built in 1874, and cost \$5,000. The Oregon terminus is 255 feet higher than the Forest City depot site. Maj. G. W. Kelley was the contractor.

In February 1900, George Weber, one of the city's most enterprising citizens gave to the city the sum of \$4,000 with which to build a public hall, and the plans are now prepared and bids have been received, for the building of the hall. Not having sufficient means with which to complete the hall according to the plans, the city in June the present year, voted \$600 in bonds, the vote being 117 for and 22 against for this purpose, and material for this building is now being delivered.

At the A. B. Brady public sale, which occurred in March, 1882, his hay brought \$12 per ton; mules \$140 per head and corn 60 cents per bushel.

HER SCHOOL. The first school was opened by James Walden in the winter of 1857. Bonds for the erection of the present handsome and substantial school building amounting to \$5,000, was voted at the April, 1875, school election, and the building was completed in October of that year. The first session of school in this new building was begun in November of that year, with Samuel Raley as principal, assisted by Miss Helen Lehmer, who is now Mrs. Emil Weber. The following is the assessed valuations, and enumerations of the Forest City school district, beginning with 1885:

Valuation	Enumeration
1885.....\$185,375	164
1890.....164,175	179
1891.....165,010	180
1892.....170,050	190
1893.....181,155	191
1894.....229,180	192
1895.....180,525	193
1896.....191,025	194
1897.....208,976	195
1898.....184,805	196
1899.....192,045	224

THE M. E. church, south, people were the first to erect a church edifice, which was brought about by the exertions of Hiram Patterson, Levi Zook and Joshua T. Sedwick, and the building was erected in 1860. All of these promoters are now dead. In 1860 they sold this building to the Missionary Baptist and in 1869 they erected their present house of worship. Benjamin Baxter, of the M. E. church, was the first to preach the gospel in Forest City. The Missionary Baptists organized in 1865. G. W. Hitt and wife are the only surviving members of the original membership of this church; The Christians organized in 1881; T. J. Williams was their first pastor.

In 1860, the Catholics under the service of Father Welch, built their present house of worship, at a cost of \$1,500. Bishop Hogan preached the dedicatory sermon.

MANUFACTORIES, ETC. The first mill in the town was established by Gabriel and George Mauck; this was in 1867, and was located in the north part of the city, on block 88. This mill was destroyed by fire November 8, 1884; loss \$15,000. It was owned at that time by William Zook.

The mill now located in the southern part of the city, was originally established by Meers, Jno. A. Richardson, L. M. Kaul and O. C. Plummer. They conducted it for several years, when Mr. Kaul retired, and a number of prominent "strangers" became interested. It finally went to sale under an execution and S. T. Lucas and Levi Oren became the owners. These gentlemen conducted the business several years, when they removed the machinery to Mound City. It then stood idle for several years, and in July, 1893, a company with \$10,000 capital was organized, and purchased the building and grounds, and put in the very latest, improved machinery, and in December of that year "the wheels began to turn" under the management of John Morris, who is still its general manager, and the mill is doing a good business we believe. On the night of December 30, 1894, the mill was robbed of several hundred pounds of flour. William Parks and Wilber C. Davis were arrested and each given two years for the robbery.

The Forest City cannery factory was completed in August 1896, being built by Allen Bros., wholesale grocers, of Omaha, at a cost of \$7,000. The citizens of Forest subscribed \$2,500 toward the enterprise. Its pack of tomatoes, corn in 1899 amounted to some 30,000 cases. L. P. Watson, an experienced processor in charge of the packing.

Just below this city in 1875 Clarke Irvine, Philip Snyder, A. B. Payne and some other gentlemen formed a company and went to work making a cement, the material being found in the bluffs near by. Tests proved the material of a high quality, and for a while the prospects were

bright, but they were only able to hold out for a year, by reason of not being able to compete in the markets with Louisville and other cement makers, they reducing the price to less than it could be gotten out of the ground for by this instant concern. Staves and headings were then made here, but this business was of brief duration.

An extensive excelsior factory is in successful operation at this point and its shipments annually run into many carloads. It is one of the most successful enterprises ever established in Forest City. It was purchased by Richardson & Hitt in 1865, who we believe still operate it.

Forest City has most excellent telephone service, being furnished by the Oregon & Forest City telephone company, of which D. M. Martin is president and M. R. Martin is superintendent. It also has long distance connections with some 300 towns in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. This company was organized in February 1898.

It has electric lights and water supply, its mains being laid in the business part of the city only as yet, but these will be gradually extended as the city's finances will justify. The electric lights were turned on September 19, 1898; the water mains were laid and completed at the same time.

William Burgess and Tom Cunningham started a pottery in the north part of the town in 1859, but it was only operated a brief time.

A brewery was started and operated by a man named C. Krause. In 1860 the "brick brewery" which still stands was built by Krause & Engel. They retired in 1865. G. Albert Roeder, of Oregon, was at one time interested in this enterprise. In 1881, Jacob Schweinfurth operated the brewery, buying the building from William Zook, of St. Joseph.

J. Demuth established a foundry in 1865 and continued the business there until 1882, when he moved the plant to St. Joseph.

HER NEWSPAPERS. The Monitor was the first newspaper. It was established in 1858 by VanNatta & Colvin. In 1859 its name was changed to the Courier. It lived but a short time. In August, 1863, it was revived, and continued until the following October, when it died and the Missouri Express was brought into existence by S. M. C. Reynolds and D. O. Wasson. In February, 1869, the Holt County Journal took its place; this was published by T. H. & R. A. Frame, and survived for two-and-a-half months. The Independent was established in the winter of 1869 by the Bowman brothers; they sold in 1870 to D. P. Ballard, who conducted the paper only a few weeks, when it died, and the plant was removed to Rock Port, John M. Haessner now deceased, and a Mr. Moulton buying the plant.

The Sun was established by H. H. Hoskins in 1889, who removed the plant to Oregon, in August, 1892.

The Independent was then established by a Mr. Briggs; then it passed into the hands of a Mr. Brunson, and then into the control of Ed. S. Hayes, who in the fall of 1894 moved the plant to Oregon, and consolidated with the Democrat, then published by Mr. Egleston.

The Record, by Clara B. Doherty, was established January 30, 1897. It continued for about one year.

In May, 1899, The Journal was established by A. J. & F. Ush, and they issued a six column quarto, up to its issue of June 29, 1900, when they changed to a seven column folio. In this issue its proprietors said: "Unless different arrangements are made this will be the last issue of the Forest City Journal."

The Messenger of Love is published at Forest City by Meers, W. A. Haynes and G. P. Keeling. It was established in the winter of the present 1900 year. "It is sent forth for the defense of truth and standard of Gospel freedom," "anti-priest-craft and anti-sectarian."

BANKING INTERESTS. The bank of Forest City, was organized as a private bank in 1873. In July, 1878, it became incorporated with a capital of \$30,000; B. Frazer and Dr. D. McDonald were the organizers of the new popular business institution. George Weber, who followed as cashier, then as president, and who continued with the bank from 1881 to 1894. H. K. S. Robinson, now deceased, was also cashier or teller for a few years. Its present substantial home was built in 1874. In 1898, it went into liquidation by expiration of charter, and reorganized, incorporating for fifty years with a capital of \$25,000. Mr. John France is the present president and E. M. Austin, cashier. On May 7, 1899, three men entered the bank and held up its cashier, C. C. Hunt, and its president, George Weber. They were never apprehended. They made way with a few thousand dollars.

RAILROAD HISTORY. The Kansas City, St. Joseph & Council Bluffs railroad was completed to Forest City June 9, 1868, the preliminary survey being made the following spring. Capt. W. S. Canon graded the three miles extending north of Forest City. On August 10, of this year, the last rail between St. Joseph and Council Bluffs was laid, and this gave Forest City rail communication with Omaha and Council Bluffs; and with Chicago, via the Hannibal & St. Joseph to Quincy; and with St. Louis over the same line to Macon, then over the old North Missouri, now the Wabash system. The first depot was built in August, 1868. The first passenger coach passed over the line June 19, 1868. Two trains daily, only one were run, one each way. Now there are twelve passenger trains pass this station daily. The bridge to Rulo was completed October 3, 1888, and the following day, the first through passenger train for Denver, via Rulo, passed through Forest City.

The following agents have had charge of the company's business since its opening for business: Frank Briggs, June to Oct. 1868. Chas. Sloane, to Dec. 1870. R. N. Howell, to Sept. 1872. Vine Hovey, Sept. 1872, still agent. Prior to the completion of this railroad, transportation for both freight and passengers, was by steamboat and the old stage coach. The stage line was from St. Joseph to Council Bluffs and Omaha via Savannah, Fillmore, Oregon, Forest City, North Point, now Mound City, Big Springs, near Craig. The passenger fare from St. Joseph to Forest City, was \$2.50.

In April, 1881, the entire bottom lands along this railway was submerged in

water, and traffic was abandoned for several days, the mails being brought overland from St. Joseph to Oregon and Forest City.

In March, 1895, a train load composed of two cars of gold and silver bullion; eight cars of silk and four of tea passed through Forest City for the east.

SECRET SOCIETIES. The Masons organized their lodge July 8, 1860. Milton S. Moody was the first master; Levi Zook, S. W.; Hiram Patterson, J. W.; Daniel Zook, secretary. On June 19, 1864, the Odd Fellows organized a lodge. A. J. Ush, N. G.; E. M. Austin, V. G.; and C. G. Landon, secretary.

A lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America was organized in February, 1900; W. H. Alkire was chosen V. G.; and Chas. Gennett, clerk.

The Fraternal Aid Association was organized January 22, 1886. Dr. F. E. Hullock, was chosen P. P.; W. M. Hitt, secretary and E. M. Austin, treasurer. A camp of the Woodmen of the World was organized in that city November 26, 1898.

FIRE, ROBBERIES ETC. Forest has been visited by very few congratulations, among which we mention: Forest City mill, Nov. 8, 1884. Ford J. M. residence, Feb. 17, 1892. Slaughter house, Dec. 29, 1895. Residence of Mr. Hopper, Feb. 16, 77. S. T. Lucas, residence, Jan. 25, 1873. Meyer tailor shop, March 10, 1893. Wilder hotel, December 22, 1872. Willis store building, March 17, 1879. Ford & Lease store, February 5, 1889. Williams W. H. store Feb. 5, 1889.

Some of the robberies that have occurred at Forest City: Baggage from the depot, Dec. 7, 1869. Forest City mill, May 7, 1889. Forest City bank, Dec. 30, 1894. S. M. Glass store, April 3, 1891. S. M. Glass store, Dec. 25, 1891. Jos. Groves store, July 15, 1878. Jos. Groves store, Feb. 16, 1876. Limp's saloon, August 14, 1873. Tobias Lease store, June 6, 1871. T. S. Lease saloon, March 10, 1878. Mail pouches from depot platform, July 19, 1893.

Horses stolen from barn of Miller & Co., August 9, 1883. Operator held up June 28, 1893. Post office, April 20, 1893. Mr. Potter, operator, August 14, 1883. J. D. Perkins, held up, Oct. 21, 1865. Stoddard's millinery store, August 23, 1870.

J. D. Truett, June 21, 1866. Thos. Teare, residence, July 4, 1878. Emil Weber store, July 12, 1893. W. H. Williams store, Jan. 3, 1880. L. P. Sentney store, July 25, 1896. S. M. Glass, residence, July 26, 1897. Bullock & France, drug store, March 9, 1898.

I. M. Guild, confectionery, Jan. 7, '98. J. R. Lantabrook, January 21, 1893. Sanford Lantabrook store, May 3, 1885. Our record fails to show a single murder ever having been committed within the corporate limits of Forest City, nor do they show of a suicide having been committed by any of her citizens. With in a short distance of our sister city, the following crimes have been committed:

David McGregory was killed by Wm. Kimball, October 3, 1870, on the White Cloud and Forest City road, near the ferry, while on their way as companions, to Forest City. After a week's absence, McGregory's body was found near the roadside. Kimball was never heard of.

The charred bones of a young man named Thomas Fee, were found in an ash heap south of Forest City on January 1, 1880. Circumstances pointed toward a man named Thomas Fee as being the party responsible for the death of young Thorpe, and he was accordingly arrested in February, 1880, and in September of the same year he was tried and acquitted. Fee afterwards was sent to the pen for forgery.

Herbert Chadwick, who used to live in Forest City, was drowned in the 102 river near St. Joseph, July 4, 1895. He was buried in Forest City.

Joseph Decker was drowned in the slough near Forest City, while bathing, July 5, 1881.

Mr. Stephen Shaylor and his daughter were drowned in the Missouri river, south of Forest City, June 5, 1892.

William Young Pove, living north of Forest City, suicided by taking strychnine May 25, 1877.

John Seaburn living near Forest City, suicided with a revolver, Oct. 28, 1885. Burriel Evans took his own life by hanging himself with a halter, in the timber, April 5, 1888.

J. E. Ballhous, a lawyer, of Quincy, Ill., died suddenly at the depot, April 25, 1895. He was taken from the train and carried to his home in Quincy, where he died. His death was a great loss to the community.

William Gooden, colored, while a resident of Forest City, was sent to the penitentiary for five years for forgery, at the January term, 1889. He was pardoned in August 1890, where he died the following October.

William Parks and Wilbur C. Davis, were each given two years in the penitentiary for robbing the Forest City mills on the night of Dec. 30, 1894.

George Findley was given five years for robbing the L. P. Sentney store, July 25, 1884.

William Graves and Charles Martin, colored boys, both minors, were arrested for robbing the postoffice in April, 1893. Graves turned state's evidence, and Martin was given three months in the county jail. They were tried in the United States court at St. Joseph.

Female Weakness Cured. I was troubled with severe female weakness for over six months. I was treated by six very prominent physicians without any marked benefit. My last doctor was a skilled specialist, and he told me the only hope lay in an operation. I heard of Smith's Sure Kidney Cure, and after using it for one month I found myself cured, and even the doctor who had treated me now pronounces me well.

Mrs. J. R. FAVER, Clark, Ga. Price 50 cents. For sale by Clark O. Proud.

Neglect is the shortest step so many take from a cough or cold to consumption. The early use of One Minute Cough Cure prevents consumption. It is the only harmless remedy that gives immediate results. It cures all throat and lung troubles. Children all like it and mothers endorse it. For sale by S. W. Aiken, and C. O. Proud.

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